THE FRENCH KING'S MANIFESTO.

LONDON:

Printed for G. BRITAIN; And Sold by the Booksellers at the *Royal-Exchange*, *Ludgate-Street*, *Temple-Bar*, and *St. James's*. 1744.

[Price Six-pence.]

THE

FRENCH KING'S

MANIFESTO.

LONDON:

Printed for G. BRITAIN; And Sold by the Booksellers
at the Royal-Exchange, Ludgate-Street, Temple-Bar,
and St. James's. 1744.

[Price Six-pence.]

The TRANSLATOR to the READER.

A *Late Author, who has written* The Hiſtory of the Devil, *makes this ſhrewd Remark,* viz. That the Devil ought to have juſtice done him, as well as another Perſon. *People may think what they pleaſe; but a Man muſt be thoroughly prejudiced, who can believe that the* French *King has a leſs Right to Juſtice than the Devil himſelf. But ſo it is, that a mangled Manifeſto now appears, which gives us juſt as much light into the true Reaſons of the* French *declaring War againſt* England, *as the late Accounts publiſhed in our News-Papers did into the* Mediterranean *Engagement. In order, therefore, not only to ſet the Nation right in this Matter, but alſo to prevent ſuch imperfect Repreſentations for the future, I ſhall, from time to time, publiſh faithful Tranſlations of the Originals of Papers of ſuch Conſequence, as they come to hand, unmangled, and free from all kind of Caſtration.*

A

By the K I N G.

THE Glory of the *French* Monarchy requires that We do ourſelves juſtice againſt all Our Enemies. At the Deceaſe of *Charles* the Sixth, late Emperor of *Germany*, We commanded all *Europe* to be at Peace. And, to enforce ſuch Our Orders to be duly and punctually obeyed, We raiſed a ſuitable Army, and ſent it into the Empire, to behave agreeable to the Honour and Dignity of *France*; To raiſe a Proper Perſon to the Imperial Dignity; To diſtribute the late Emperor's Effects; And to divide his Eſtates, as We, in Our great Wiſdom, ſhould direct: Which We well hoped, would have been peaceably accompliſhed, without the Intervention of any of thoſe daring pertinacious Powers, who are for turning the World topſy-turvy, and contravening Our Royal Commands: When, contrary to Our Expectation, and to all the known Rules of Juſtice, Honour, and Decency, and in direct Defiance of Our Royal Will and Pleaſure, the Eldeſt Daughter of the late Emperor, at the Inſtigation of the King of *England*, Elector of *Hanover*, firſt preſumed to ſtile herſelf *Queen of Hungary and Bohemia*; and afterwards, not ſatisfied to contravene Our Royal Dictates, and to diſpute Our Authority, likewiſe defeated and deſtroyed Our Armies, whoſe innocent and pacific Views were well known to all the World; and are further proved ſo by the following Inſtances: When the King of *P-----a*, Our good Friend and Ally, brought his Army into the Field, to take Poſſeſſion of *Sileſia*; to which, tho' he was juſtly intitled by many leſſer Claims, as alſo by that of Our Royal Mandate, directed to the ſaid Emperor's Daughter, and notified to the ſaid King of *England*, Elector of *Hanover*; yet ſhe, the ſaid Emperor's Daughter, being reſolved to conteſt ſuch Right, We, in Our Royal Wiſdom, rather conſidering the Regard due to Peace, and the Welfare of Mankind, than the ſaid King of *P----a*'s juſt Claim to that Country, or even of Our Alliance ſolemnly entred into with him, refuſed to engage the Army of the ſaid Emperor's Daughter; And, for that purpoſe, withdrew Our Forces, altho' we thereby moſt highly offended Our beſt Friend and Ally. The next Inſtance

is equally obvious as the preceeding: We, firſt, of Our mere Grace and Favour, granted a Neutrality to the El-------te of *H-----r*; ſhewed amazing Inſtances of Our Royal Favour to the High and Mighty States of *Holland*; and, to crown all, when the Army of Our good Friend and Ally the preſent Emperor, was attacked by that of the ſaid late Emperor's Daughter, We declined engaging, tho' directly oppoſite to Our own Intereſt, and to that of the ſaid Emperor; He well knowing, as all the World muſt by ſuch notorious Inſtances, how much Our Love of Peace exceeded Our Deſire of War, or the ſhedding the Blood of Our Fellow-Creatures. We went further yet: We not only commanded Our firſt Army to ſhut themſelves up in *Prague*, and act merely on the Defenſive; but we alſo directed another Army to march to the *Mayne*, under the Command of Our Couſin the Marſhal *Noailles*, in order, if poſſible, to prevent the ſaid King of *England*, Elector of *Hanover*, from propagating the Flames of War in *Germany*; the Deſign whereof was viſible to all *Europe*; yet the ſaid King, miſinterpreting Our honeſt and peaceable Views, guarded againſt Us as Enemies; which being a plain Miſtruſt of, as well as Inſult on, Our Honour, We, with good Cauſe, commanded Our Couſin to drive him back again into the Circle of his Neutrality; that Peace might be thereby reſtored to, and flouriſh on the Banks of the *Mayne*, and the adjacent Country: Which our Couſin accordingly attempted; when, inſtead of being treated, as in Juſtice and Honour he ought to have been, and the ſaid King and his Army retiring without Oppoſition, they had the Preſumption to oppoſe, repulſe, and beat back Our Royal Arm, contrary to their own Intereſt, and of Our Royal Good-will towards them. In all which Proceeding, the ſaid King of *England*, Elector of *Hanover*, exerted and behaved himſelf moſt of all to our Diſadvantage. Notwithſtanding all which Aggravations, and Affronts to our Imperial Crown, and the Honour of the *French* Nation, to this Day untainted, we freely and of our Royal Grace forgave the ſame, and to take away from our Enemies all Manner of Pretence, of any evil Intention on our Part, withdrew our Armies to the other Side of the *Rhine*, without ſo much as attempting in any Manner whatſoever to reſent the various Injuries and Indignities thrown upon us by the ſaid King of *England*, Elector of *Hanover*, and the ſaid late Emperor's eldeſt Daughter, for the Truth whereof we appeal to all *Europe*. But the Malice of our Enemies ſtill carried them further; for not content with our Army's retiring to avoid Blood-ſhed, they were purſued into their own Country, obliged to paſs the *Rhine*, and to act upon the Defenſive, and were more obliged to the River, and the Backwardneſs of Part of the Confederate Army, than to the Favour of ſuch blood-thirſty Enemies; and there we are determin'd to remain, rather than enter the Empire again, and be made the Eye-Witneſſes of the notorious Affronts put upon our beſt Friends and Allies, not only by deſtroying their Armies, but alſo by taking from the Emperor his Hereditary Countries, of which God alone had a Right to diveſt him. But it is not in *Germany* alone, but in *Italy* alſo, that our Enemies have contriv'd to diſhonour us and our

Allies;

Allies; we enter'd into a juſt and honourable Treaty with our dear Friend and Ally the Queen of *Spain*, to eſtabliſh her ſecond Son Don *Philip* peaceably in his rightful Eſtates; but the ſaid King of *England*, Elector of *Hanover*, and the ſaid late Emperor's eldeſt Daughter, uniting in their wicked and perverſe Deſigns with the King of *Sardinia*, and in order to render the ſaid King of *Sardinia* more oppulent and powerful, and to degrade as much as poſſible our moſt illuſtrious Houſe, oppoſed us in all our juſt Meaſures, both by Sea and Land, uſing every Art and Contrivance to deſtroy both our Shipping and Land-Forces, and hindering our Royal Kinſman and his Army from landing in a Country to which, under God, he alone has a Right; and not content to repulſe, beat, and put to flight our Armies, but alſo to block up our Royal Port of *Toulon*; and inſult us at our own Doors, contrary to all the Rules of Hoſpitality and good Neighbourhood, duly obſerved on our Part; but, as if there was to be no End of their Inſults and Depredations, or any Regard to Honour and Juſtice, or to ſubſiſting Treaties, ever on our Part inviolably obſerv'd, the ſaid Confederates, but more eſpecially the ſaid King of *England*, Elector of *Hanover*, has order'd his Admirals on every Occaſion to inſult us, which Orders have been but too well put in Execution, by the taking of our Merchant-Ships, under Pretence of their carrying *Spaniſh* Cargoes, by deſtroying the Galleys of our Allies in our Ports, and to crown all, by the forcing our Squadrons, when acting as the Protectors of our Allies, from off our own Coaſts, and obliging them to take Shelter where they could find it; and all this without the leaſt Provocation on our Parts, and purely upon Account of our tender Regard to Mankind, and our endeavouring to act as the Dictators of Peace, Friendſhip, and Good-Will among the Powers of *Europe*. To render this more clear and ſelf-evident, and that *French* Truth and Juſtice may ſtand as a Monument whereon our Royal Views and Deſigns may be engrav'd, to be recorded to Poſterity, we ſhall further by this our Royal Declaration ſhew our Good-Will and Regard for the *Engliſh* Nation in particular, though in return as hitherto we have met nothing but Ingratitude for the ſame; our Royal Self, in order to render the *Engliſh* Nation as happy as our own Subjects on Earth, and to gain them Felicity in Heaven, to preſerve them from the Torments of Purgatory, and everlaſting Burning, have ſpar'd neither Expence nor Labour to honour them with a Ruler, truly catholick and juſt, who has receiv'd our Holy Father's Benediction both for himſelf and People, and have form'd an Army, hir'd ſuitable Tranſports, and provided a proper Squadron of Ships of War, at an immenſe Expence to this our Royal Kingdom: But they the ſaid People of *England*, without any Regard to theſe our Royal Intentions, bigotted and beſotted to their ſaid King, Elector of *Hanover*, and reſolved to obſtruct us in our good Intentions towards them, have firſt chaced our Royal Squadrons out of theſe our Northern Seas, and uſed every Artifice and Contrivance to render our Armaments uſeleſs, and our royal and tender Regard for them contemptible in the Eyes of all *Europe*: Therefore, and for that all Nations may hereafter ſtudy to revere and honour our

Royal

Royal Crown and Kingdom, and to receive from our Royal Grace and Favour only, such Benefits as we shall think proper from Time to Time to bestow; and that the *English* in particular may learn to know the Danger of contemning our Good-Will, and requiting us with Ingratitude, and out of the tender Regard which we have to our own Honour, and the Good and Welfare of our Subjects—We do hereby order and declare, our Royal Power both by Sea and Land to be put in full Force and Execution, and by every possible Way and Means to distress and destroy the said *English* Nation; and be our Royal Mandates from henceforth observ'd accordingly.

Signed,

LOUIS.

Underneath,

AMELOT.

BRITISH MUSEUM